

THE VISION OF THE REAL MAN

As one progresses in the understanding of Christian Science, one invariably arrives at the conclusion that Christian Science or the Word of God is, to use a time-worn expression, as old as the hills.

Solomon says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." The word "vision" in the Bible generally means spiritual consciousness, the Christ consciousness, or the apprehension of the Truth. In fact, a Christian Science treatment is really a vision — the vision of the Christ or the perfect man. The Word of God, as quoted in *Science and Health*, says: "Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Savior saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick." This vision of the Christ healed the sick, saved the sinner and raised the dead, and without this vision, as Solomon said, the people would have perished.

Paul said the same as the foregoing. He said, "To be carnally minded" — and to be carnally minded is certainly to be without spiritual-mindedness, or to be visionless — "To be carnally minded [where there is no vision] is death [the people perish]," and he added, "but to be spiritually minded [to have the vision of Christ, or to have spiritual consciousness] is life and peace," which Solomon left for us to deduce. A simple enough deduction, for if "Where there is no vision the people perish," conversely, "Where there is vision the people live."

What could be more plain, or in greater agreement?

Christian Scientists recognize this fact, and their endeavor is to have this vision or consciousness of the real man constantly, despite the evidence of the senses or of the human mind.

To anyone who will study the Bible in the light of Christian Science, or Truth, the coming of the Christ, or this spiritual vision, is assured. Habakkuk says: "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower [meaning that I will steadfastly hold to the fact that I have the Mind of Christ], and will watch to see what he [the Christ] will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am argued with [argued with by evil suggestion or the human mind, of course]." "For the vision [the coming of the Christ consciousness] is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

The appointed time is all the time, or any time, as soon as we are prepared for it by our study, practice, and consecration. Balboa, the traveler and explorer, believed there was an ocean beyond the isthmus of Darien and ultimately made arrangements with the Indians in that country to lead him across the isthmus from the Atlantic to what is now known as the Pacific Ocean. After struggling through an almost impassable jungle, he came to the foothills of the mountains which he had to cross. The Indians led him by a pathway almost impossible to detect, but gradually they approached the top where, once it was attained, one could see the Pacific stretching out in front and the Atlantic behind.

When the Indians, who were familiar with the ground, came to within a few hundred feet of the spot where one could get his first glimpse of the promised ocean, they stopped and sent Balboa forward alone that he might be the first white man to behold the long-looked-for water, and when he reached the place — the highest point on the pathway whence he could look down over the tops of the trees and mountains — he had his first vision of what he had so long dreamed about. This moment was the appointed time. It might have been any time in his life, but the appointed time was the moment when he attained a sufficient height to be able to command an uninterrupted view of the ocean.

So the appointed time for Christ to come to us is any time in our earthly experience we reach an altitude where we perceive spiritual things. Then has the Christ come at the appointed hour.

Ezekiel the Prophet tells us likewise that the healing is a result of the vision of the Christ; yea, more, he deploras the belief in consciousness then as now, that the result of the vision should not be recognized as instantaneous, so he says: "Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel [or in consciousness], saying, The days are prolonged [the healing is prolonged], and every vision [treatment] faileth? Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord God; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand [the healing is now at once, instantaneous], and the effect of every vision. For there shall be no more any vain vision [worthless treatment] nor flattering divination [flattering of the human mind by right thinking] within the house of Israel [or within consciousness]. For I am the Lord: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days [now, at once, immediately], O rebellious house [O rebellious consciousness], will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord God. Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off [the healing takes a long time]. Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord God."

That the healing will surely result is well borne out also in the Mosaic decalogue, which says, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain," or vainly; or in other words, if one utters the Word of God, or has the vision of the Christ, the Word shall not go forth in vain, but the result will be sure; and Paul bears out the same in his letter to the Corinthians.

Orthodoxy has been so intent upon believing the physical sense testimony that it has used this wonderful healing chapter as a burial service, but it really brings out the sense of life. Paul says, and I interpolate the language of today, "Behold, I shew you a mystery [behold I show you something which had heretofore been mysterious to you]; We shall not all sleep [die], but we shall all be changed [healed]" — think of the wondrous statement, we shall all be healed, every one of us — "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump [when we may have reached the very limits of human endurance]: for the trumpet shall sound [the voice of the Christ shall be heard, or the vision shall come to us], and the dead shall be raised incorruptible [those buried in the very depths of the carnal mind shall be raised into spiritual consciousness, or shall have the vision of the Christ] and we shall be changed [healed], "for GOD CAN DO IT.